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PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

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COMMENT.

There is a point in the remark of the Black Range, that "an honest legislature would do this territory a vast amount of good just now."

If the Constitutional Convention that met in Santa Fe last September, with an occasional quorum (though not often) was a "rump" convention, what might be the proper designation of the convention that met there the other day with nothing near a quorum in sight?

The fifty-first Congress of the United States and the twenty-eighth legislature of New Mexico will go down in history as two of the most reckless and corrupt legislative bodies that ever disgraced the politics of America. And they will be condemned by the succession of Democratic control in both.

The Springer Banner says Hon. Cristoval Sandoval, member of the Constitutional Convention, said before the recent meeting that it was unhealed for, and he would not attend it. He thinks the constitution should not be voted on, as it will be defeated if it is. Leon Cristoval is a good deal sharper than most of his colleagues in that convention.

The constitution for the state of New Mexico as amended is the most liberal, progressive, fair and just document of the kind that has ever been devised in this country. [New Mexican.]

How now! According to that the Constitution must have been originally very bad—and yet it has been daily extolled through the columns of the *New Mexican* for the past nine months, as the best instrument of the kind ever formulated.

A few gentlemen who were members of the Constitutional Convention which had been authorized by the last Legislature, met in Santa Fe the other day to explain the Constitution that had been previously made. It will now be in order for a dozen or so of other gentlemen who had also been members of that convention, to get together in Santa Fe and explain the explanation.

If the Constitution made last September was the perfect thing that the statehood campaigners have for the past several months been trying to make the people believe, what was the need of going into subsequent convention to correct its defects. Is not that fact public confession of the truth and force of the criticisms that the Constitution has met every where over the Territory?

The anti-lottery people of Louisiana are making vigorous war on the lottery amendment to the state constitution. They recently held a convention at Baton Rouge, and adopted a resolution to boycott the pro-lottery papers of New Orleans. A guarantee fund of about \$30,000 was reported, with which to start a morning daily newspaper to be published in New Orleans, in opposition to rechartering the lottery.

The material provisions of the election law passed at the last session of the Legislature will be found on another page of this paper. As this law is to govern the elections to be held this fall—on the Constitution as well as others—it is important that it be carefully studied, and that especially the officers chosen to conduct the elections, should have a copy at the polls, convenient for reference in the prompt decision of any question that may arise in connection with the balloting.

Every paper in New Mexico that supports the proposed Constitution made last September, also opposes the Perkins School bill. Consistent, to say the least. The Constitution was made, in large part, by the men who refused to pass a school bill in the Legislature two years ago, and now they denounce the introduction in Congress, of a bill to give us a "free school system," "a non-warrantable interference" in our local affairs. If they want to stick to that point, why didn't they give us a school law when they had it in their power to do so?

OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER—WHICH?

The attempt to change the date for voting on the pending constitution somewhat complicates the statehood issue, not, however, to the advantage of the Constitution or its supporters.

It is apparent that the change was made from purely selfish motives—a desire on the part of the prospective Republican candidate for Congress, and his immediate supporters, to rid themselves of a troublesome incumbent. With that Constitution hanging like a mill stone about his neck, it had become apparent even to him and his supporters that his defeat was a foregone conclusion, and they were determined to get rid of it, no matter what effect might follow to the Constitution.

Mr. Otero's proposition to postpone the election to the 23d of September, less than five weeks from the time the proposition was made, is good evidence of that fact, as it is apparent that during that time any canvass would have been impossible, and the election must almost of necessity have gone by default.

Even the day finally fixed, the 7th of October, only two weeks later, will hardly change the result in that respect. Many of the people will not even know of the change—miners and ranchmen located at long distances from communication—often a month or more without mails or any communication whatever with settlements.

One of two things is therefore apparent—either that the Constitution people have abandoned all hope of the ratification of their bantling by the people, and therefore intended to let it die as easily and with as little ado as possible, or, by rallying their strength in the cities and settlements as fully and quietly as possible on the day of election, thus extending the large anti-constitution ranch and mining vote scattered in distant and isolated communities over the Territory, secure a majority vote.

In this new phase of the case, it becomes important that the opponents of the Constitution at once determine what course to take—whether to make an effort to rally their forces under this disadvantage of lack of time to vote it down, or ignore this election absolutely, as they did the election for members of the Constitutional Convention, and then concentrate their effort on the November election, when there will be no difficulty in massing their strength and casting a full vote, and thus bury the constitution for good and all under an avalanche of noes.

As at present advised, we incline to the opinion that the latter will be the best course to pursue, especially in view of the fact that there is not a shade of legality in the late meeting, or in any part of the action taken by the gentlemen presuming to meet as a Constitutional Convention at Santa Fe last week, with less than a quorum present. On the first day of that gathering there were present but thirty-three persons claiming to be members, and on the second and last day, when all the business of amending the Constitution, etc., was transacted, there were but twenty-nine—the full number of the Convention being seventy-three. Not a roll call was had to show that any of the gentlemen present were members—no legal verification whatever of the membership or that even those present had a right to be there and act as members. The meeting was therefore utterly devoid of any authority to act as a Constitutional Convention. So that whatever it did or attempted to do was without even the reasonable semblance of authority or legality.

Under this state of fact, the reasonable conclusion is that its attempt to change the action of the September meeting is utterly without force or effect, and that the call for the election in November still stands.

It will be pertinent, however, for the accredited representatives of the party, when they meet in Silver City next week, to fully consider this state of the case and indicate the policy to be pursued.

BETTER TO MAKE HASTE SLOWLY

The gag rule under which the House of Representatives is now run by Speaker Reed was originally insisted on under the pretext that it was necessary to facilitate the transaction of the business of Congress.

Under that rule it has been in the power of the committee on rules, of which Mr. Reed is chairman, and which he controls as absolutely as he does the House, and therefore in the power of the Speaker, to suspend debate and force a vote on any bill at any time he might elect.

It has been made an instrumentality for the purpose of purely partisan purposes and wreaking partisan vengeance, and under its operation the most important measures ever before Congress have been forced through after a discussion of from a few hours to less than a week. Not a third of the members have had an opportunity to speak on any given measure, and some bills of more or less importance, and in which all the people are interested, have been forced through practically without discussion and without explanation. The Congressional Record has heretofore derived its chief value to the people from the fact that it contained, for the information of the people, an elaborate discussion of every bill that has come actively before either House of Congress. The Record had thereby become a popular and efficient public educator in the affairs of the country.

But that has to a good degree ceased, and what do we have in return? Has the transaction of the business of Congress been facilitated or more satisfactorily performed? Not at all. Congress has been in session nine months. It is now near the close of what will have been one of its very longest sessions. Yet out of the twenty thousand bills that have been brought before it, many of them of more or less imminent public consequence, only about five hundred have finally passed and become laws, and many of these are of an inexcusably vicious and reckless character. Seven hundred Senate bills alone now remain unacted on, on the speakers' desk awaiting the action of the House, though favorably reported by the committee.

That the government and people have been losers by this delay, and to large amounts, a single illustration will suffice to show—the loss of \$120,000 by the failure to pass the Indian appropriation bill—officially reported by Indian Commissioner Morgan a few days ago.

The surplus of eighty millions left over by the Cleveland administration, is gone and an actual deficit has taken its place.

The most reckless extravagance has ruled, and now increased tariff taxation, involving increased burdens upon every consumer and every vocation, is invoked and almost certain to be laid—all the result of legislation under Reed's gag rule under the pretense of facilitating the transaction of business. This has been its principal effect, fully in consonance with its principal purpose—the unseating of duly elected Democrats and the passage of laws to govern the South by the bayonet—thus to evolve Republican majorities where none could otherwise exist.

There is no condition so conducive to safe legislation as freedom of debate, and no rule so safe in public affairs as to make haste slowly.

There are two separate, distinct and different Constitutions now before the people of New Mexico for their acceptance or rejection—one made in September 1889, and the other in August, 1890. The September Constitution is to be voted on November 4th, 1890, and the other on October 7th, 1890. The vote on the first one submitted comes last, and the vote on the last one submitted comes first. The situation is rather confusing, except that there is an absolute certainty that both will be overwhelmingly rejected, and at "one fell swoop," so to speak.

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The state of Vermont shows a falling off in population since the last national census. The present census shows a population of 332,000, which is just 286 less than the figures for 1880. The old men of Vermont have been voting for Republican protective tariffs for the past twenty-five years, and under their influence importing Canadian cheap labor, and her young men have been coming out west trying to find the home market that those tariffs were to create. Yet she should not repine. She still has Senator Edmunds and the Green mountains, and both are towering in their respective importance.

The Sun can name a dozen or more prominent Republicans statehood boomers, wearing diamonds and using as great men, who have not paid their taxes in Santa Fe county for one, two, and even three years. Max Frost, the black and tan butcher of the English language for our twilight contemporary, who escaped the penalty of a marvelous scratch, is one of the number. Other names will be revealed from time to time. Fine lot of patriots to lead New Mexico to statehood and glory! [Santa Fe Sun.]

Ex-Gov. W. G. Ritch was in Santa Fe, on Wednesday, but failed to explain why he didn't come in time to take his seat in the constitutional convention. [Sun.]

As far as heard from, the returns show Democratic gains in the elections held on Monday in Alabama and Kentucky. The Harrison administration has done very much to insure Democratic gains in all parts of the country. The news from the south is only a pointer. [Philadelphia Record.]

The shaft is republican clear through from the editor to the devil, but it has no use for office holders who are afraid of the Berkshire school bill for New Mexico. It is a republican measure, introduced by a republican congressman, in a republican congress, and will pass the house and become a law by the signature of President Harrison. [Kingston Shaft.]

"Advocates for statehood for Arizona are a good deal like a man who has bought a lottery ticket, and then blows himself in for drinks and cigars on the strength of prospective winnings." [Arizona Silver Bell.]

The above is most fitting to the statehood boomers of New Mexico. They are simply blowing themselves in. [Black Range.]

Many years ago the Chinese built a great wall in order to keep foreigners out of their home market. These same Chinese are now tearing up a new railroad, believing that it causes floods in their rivers. The American protectionists and the Chinese are making great progress.

Some will remember that there were rumors of alarm a few years ago that the Democrats would bankrupt the Government if they came into power. These have been rumored that they left a surplus in the Treasury. Impressions of that sort are not following those who now distribute things at Washington. In half of their term they have found the bottom of the Treasury.

The question of statehood for New Mexico is being rationally and sensibly discussed and the outlook indicates that it will be settled on its merits. The call-a-man-a-fool and a traitor-to-his-party plan, because he won't dance to the music of a few self-appointed leaders, is a failure. [Haton Hango.]

The republicans managed to turn out 395 men by "accol count" at their grand rally in Santa Fe Saturday night, while the democrats turned out 500, also by actual count, without any "hitting or bulldozing" at their rally a little over a week ago. This shows which way the wind blows in Santa Fe county.

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